THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) Normally, the first 200 MW unit of a thermal power project is expected to be commissioned within four years of placement of order for main plant and equipment, with subsequent units of 200 MW following at intervals of six months each thereafter. In the case of 500 MW sets, the first unit is expected to be commissioned within five years of placement of order and subsequent units at intervals of one year each thereafter. Work on the units under implementation at the Singrauli and Korba projects is proceeding in accordance with this schedule

The implementation of power projects is closely monitored by the Central Electricity Authority. The projects of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) are also continuously monitored by the machinery set up by the Corporation for the purpose.

Criteria of Appointment of Government Officers as Chairman and Managing Director in a Public Sector Undertaking

1527. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Enterprises Selection Board had recommended the candidates for the post of Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Leather Corporation and Hindustan Paper Corporation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have not accepted the recommendations made by P.E.S.B. and appointed Government officers as Managing Director in Bharat Leather Corporation and Hindustan Paper Corporation;

(c) if reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in affirmative, what are the criteria for appointing Government officers as Managing Directors of public sector undertakings;

(d) whether the appointments of these officers have been approved by Public Enterprises Selection Board; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board, the Managing Director of the Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd. has since assumed charge and the orders regarding appointment of Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited have been issued.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Persons employed in Khadi and Village Industries

1528. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons finding employment in the 'Khadi and Village' sector of industries in the country;

(b) whether any study has been made to enlarge the scope of this sector; if so, the details thereof;

(c) in view of the large employment potential and also in view of the fact that this sector helps the poor entrepreneur, what fresh initiatives are being taken by Government to encourage the growth of this setcor; and

(d) whether any new 'incentives' are being planned to be given to this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNA-